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Newsletter

ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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To:

Doris J. McLean
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LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK - By Dillard B. Lasseter, Executive Officer

The legislative situation with respect to Federal employees is as yet obscured. We had hoped to give some concrete information about the programs for this session of Congress, but none of them has yet reached the stage at which we can even guess at the eventual outcome. Innumerable bills have been introduced and we do not have the space to recapitulate them, but in general the situation is as follows:

Pay Raise: The outlook for a pay raise commensurate with the increased cost of living was good until the President's Budget Message, which indirectly threw cold water on the hope for a proper increase. Sponsors of the pay-raise legislation and organizations supporting it have not, however, receded in their demands for the raise. The generalities of the proposals is for an average increase of about \$800. It should be noted that OPEDA is not the only lone voice crying for proportionate increases for the higher grades, as one of the very large Government employee organizations is now shifting to this position. We are gratified that OPEDA's consistent support of this idea is now gaining momentum.

Federal-State Retirement: This legislation will be reintroduced, and a reorganized and augmented Educational Advisory Committee of OPEDA has been formed. While continuing our efforts in Congress, attention will be concentrated on the Executive Branch, and the Committee has authorized the employment of a person who has close contacts with the Executive Branch and the party in control thereof. As additional funds will be necessary, a letter will go out in the next few days to those who have contributed to this movement in the past, soliciting contributions... If, however, any members of OPEDA who are interested in this legislation do not receive a letter from the Committee, they may send contributions to OPEDA, marked "OPEDA Educational Fund." Incidentally, a large number of replies to the recent questionnaire indicated that this item was among the top problems of interest to OPEDANS. We want to emphasize that expense incurred in the support of this item is borne entirely by independent contributions and does not use one cent of regular OPEDA funds. On the other hand, OPEDA has greatly benefitted by this activity as hundreds have joined OPEDA in addition to contributing directly to the Educational fund.

Outside Training for Federal Employees: This legislation permitting the Federal Government to send an employee for training purposes to colleges, laboratories, and industrial establishments, will possibly be passed at it has both the Executive and Congressional approval. This training will, of course, be at Federal expense.

Health and Hospital Insurance: Some plan for these benefits will undoubtedly pass during the 85th Congress, if not in its first session.

Scientific and Technical Personnel: The outlook for a decided improvement in the pay levels for these groups is good.

Downgrading: Legislation protecting the salary levels of an employee who is downgraded through no fault of his own has been introduced, and we think its prospects are good.

Senior Civil Service: Efforts will be made to establish this elite corps of civil servants and, while not discussing the merits of this proposal, we have privately discovered strong Congressional opposition to it.

For Retirees: Prospects for legislation raising annuities for those already retired looks good. This legislation proposes raises up to \$800 and would lift the \$4,104 ceiling imposed by the present law.

The foregoing items have already received Council support. If any new objectives are reached at the Council meeting on January 29, we will inform you in the February newsletter. We regret that more definite information cannot be provided at this time, but we believe that the above is as good a summary as anyone in Washington can supply at this time. We wanted to let you know the present status rather than wait until something materializes.

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CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES OF INTEREST

For your information, the Post Office and Civil Service Committees of both the Senate and the House are listed below:

Senate: Democratic members -- Olin D. Johnston (S.C.), Chairman; A.S. "Mike" Monroney (Okla.); Thomas C. Hennings (Mo.); W. Kerr Scott (N.C.); Richard L. Neuberger (Ore.); Frank Church (Idaho); Joseph S. Clark, Jr. (Pa.). Republican members: Frank Carlson (Kan.); William E. Jenner (Ind.); William Langer (N.D.); Thomas E. Martin (Iowa); Clifford P. Case (N.J.); and Thruston B. Morton (Ky.).

House -- Democratic members: Tom Murray (Tenn.), Chairman; James H. Morrison (La.); James C. Davis (Ga.); John Lesinski (Mich.); Edw. J. Robeson, Jr. (Va.); Gracie Pfof (Idaho); Chet Hollifield (Calif.); Kathryn E. Granahan (Pa.); Lindley Beckworth (Tex.); Chas. O. Porter (Ore.); Alfred E. Santangelo (N.Y.); John Young (Tex.); Robt. W. Hemphill (S.C.); Ralph J. Scott (N.C.). Republican members: Edward H. Rees (Kan.); Robt. J. Corbett (Pa.); H.R. Gross (Iowa); Cecil M. Harden (Ind.); Albert W. Cretella (Conn.); Joel T. Broyhill (Va.); Elford A. Cederberg (Mich.); August E. Johansen (Mich.); Stuyvesant Wainwright (N.Y.); Glenn Cunningham (Neb.); and David S. Dennison, Jr. (Ohio).

YOUR NEW COUNCIL

The largest OPEDA Council to date -- 57 voting members and 26 alternates -- has been elected and will meet on January 29 to establish objectives for the year. These are your Council representatives for 1957-1958:

Administration Staff Unit: Louise Bercaw (Lib.) and Martha A. Lord (Pers.); alternate, James H. McCormick.

ACPS: Frank Clayton, voting member; and Joseph Weeks as alternate.

AMS: Paul L. Koenig, Rodney Whitaker, Hobart N. Falen, R.W. Hoecker, C. Lowell Strong, David E. Derr, and Jack A. Hamblin; and W.D. Bormuth, Boyce D. Ezell, and Mary Swickard, as alternates.

ARS: Dr. Roy Magruder, Dr. Lewis McCann, Dr. Walter Scott, Dr. Millicent Hathaway, Ernest L. Gooden, Wm. J. Krebs, H.C. Mason, Victor L. Simmons, Paul C. Wirth, and L.F. Curl; and the following alternates: Louis G. Davis, Avis Woolrich, Joel Wheeler, and Clarence H. Pals.

CEA: A.R. Grosstephan, voting member; and James Coker as alternate.

CSS: Wilson C. Tucker, A.J. Valentine as voting members; H.J. Craig as alternate.

FCA: Fulton Want as voting member; W. Gifford Hoag as alternate.

FCS: Robert J. Byrne as voting member; French M. Hyre as alternate.

FHA: Homer M. Allen and Melvin V. Cole, voting members; Judd Hudson, alternate.

FCIC: Dorothy Rhodes, voting member; George Junkin as alternate.

FES: Gerald Huffman, Charles Bell, and Fern Shipley; with Ward Porter as alternate.

F&D: Dorothy Scott as voting member; David Firestone as alternate.

FAS: Olav F. Anderson, J.D. Guthrie, Afif I. Tannous; with H.G. Bolster as alternate.

FS: B.A. Anderson, Gordon Fox, Chas. W. Mattison, Perkins Coville, Walter L. Schipull, Linne Ahlberg, Charles Buck, and Warren Benedict; with alternates James Beal, James R. McDermott, and Bert Lexen.

REA: Richard G. Schmitt, Jr., Alta B. Hamlin, and H.B. Atterbury; Alex Casanges, alternate.

SCS: Hugh A. Brown, J.C. Dykes, Ogden W. Greene, R.W. Rogers, J.J. Coyle, A.A. Klingebiel, Glenn K. Rule, John H. Wetzel, D. Harper Simms, Alvin C. Watson, Edw. M. Davis; and as alternates: Theodore C. Green, George Musgrave, Abraham D. Stoesz, and F. Glennon Loyd.

OPEDA'S STANDING COMMITTEES RECONSTITUTED

Economic (dealing with matters relating primarily to the economic well-being of professional employees, such as pay scales, retirement, travel allowances, overtime work, etc.): Robert L. Hill (Pers.), Chairman; P.E. O'Donnell (FAS); Jas. L. Robinson (FES); Lewis B. McCann (ARS); Ogden W. Greene (SCS); E.J. Overby (AMS); Charles M. Cox (CSS); Thomas L. Ayers (ACPS); Louis E. Fortson (REA); Milton M. Bryan (FS); Joe Loftis (B&F); and Rex Daly (AMS).

Professional (matters relating primarily to the individuals' responsibilities as public employees, such as professional standards and ethics, performance ratings and standards, professional recognition, etc.): Mark Kirkham (ARS), Chairman; Emory D. Burgess (ARS); Kenneth D. Gapen (ACPS); C.E. Morrison (AMS); Roy Magruder (ARS); Walter Schipull (FS); H.C. Bolster (FAS); John G. Sutton (SCS); Judd Hudson (FHA); Louis Bercaw (Lib.); Charles E. Wylie (CSS); Dorothy Scott (F&D); and Joseph P. Flannery (FES).

Public Service (Matters relating to management problems which affect the employees' accomplishments, such as adequate aides or assistants, leadership and supervision, physical welfare -- including health and safety, etc.): Clyde F. Clark (CSS), Chairman; Homer M. Allen (FHA); E.R. Draheim (Pers.); W.S. Harris (CSS); Max K. Hinds (FES); William Pate (ARS); Fern Shipley (FES); D. Harper Simms (SCS); John L. Wells (B&F); Paul C. Wirth (ARS); J. Richard Grant (AMS); Richard Schmitt, Jr. (REA); and Bernard A. Anderson (FS).

BRIEF REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP

Due to lack of space, we'll have to wait until February for our "box score." We will say that we are gratified by the prompt payment of 1957 dues, which most members sent with their ballots. Membership is now over 4200, with 3559 paid up for 1957. Second-dues-notices will go out shortly to those who have not paid for '57. Although a little more than 500 new members have been added since October 1, Membership chairman Hugh Brown is still "prodding agency representatives" to work hard for that 8,000!